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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 IO-13 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-10 RSC-01 DRC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 COA-02 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-03

OC-06 SCI-06 NSF-04 OIC-04 PM-07 NASA-04 (ADP) W
---------- 033329
P R 071138Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3835
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR US DEL TO IMCO PANEL OF EXPERTS MEETING

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, IMCO
SUBJECT: IMCO - PANEL OF EXPERTS MEETING ON
MARITIME SATELLITES

REF: COLWELL.FRANK TELECON

1. AT INVITATION OF THOMAS MEYER, EMBOFF CALLED ON MINISTRY POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION OFFICIALS (MEYER AND SANDERS) SEPTEMBER 6 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING PANEL OF EXPERTS MEETING ON MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES. MEYER WAS ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER US MARSAT PAPER "INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS CONCEPT FOR THE FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CONSORTIUM," SIGNALED A CHANGE OF POSITION ON PART OF US IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARSAT SYSTEM. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT US WAS ANXIOUS TO ENSURE THAT PANEL OF EXPERTS FULLY EXPLORED ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS RE MARSAT AND THAT US PAPER WAS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE THINKING ALONG THOSE IINES. INSTITUTIONAL
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ARRANGEMENT SUGGESTED IN PAPER WAS, IN OUR VIEW, ONLY

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ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES THAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AND DID NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT AN ARRANGEMENT THAT US WAS ADVOCATING AT THIS TIME.

2. MEYER SAID THAT IN UK VIEW, THERE WERE BASICALLY ONLY THREE FORMS MARSAT COULD TAKE: (A) A NEW INTERNATIONAL BODY PERHAPS INSTITUTIONALLY SET UP ALONG LINES OF INTELSAT ARRANGEMENT; (B) A CORPORATION COMPOSED OF INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS BUT INCORPORATED UNDER LAWS OF COUNTRY IN WHICH ORGANIZATION RESIDED; (C) A PARTNERSHIP OF MEMBERS ALONG LINES OF ATLANTIC CABLE CONFERENCE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT (B) WOULD BE ACCPTABLE TO ANY COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE ONE IN WHICH MARSAT WOULD BE RESIDENT. A PARTNERSHIP ALTERNATIVE (C) WOULD, IN HIS VIEW, DEPRIVE THE INDIVIDUAL PARTIES TO THE CONTRACT OF INSTITUTIONAL AND DIRECTIONAL CONTROL OVER THE COMPANY OR ORGANIZATION NAMED TO MANAGE AND ADMINISTER THE SYSTEM. BECAUSE OF NEGATIVE FEATURES OF ALTERNATIVES (B) AND (C), MEYER SAID UK FAVORED CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL BODY.

3. EMBOFF SAID US WAS OPPOSED TO PROLIFERATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HOPED THAT IF MARSAT SYSTEM IS TO BE ESTABLISHED THAT COSTLY AND CUMBERSOME APPROACH OF CREATING A NEW INTERNATIONAL BODY MIGHT BE AVOIDED. MEYER REPLIED UK LIKEWISE CONCERNED ABOUT PROLIFERATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES BUT AT THIS STAGE COULD SEE NO ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. HE SUGGESTED THAT NEW MARSAT, WHILE SIMILAR TO INTELSAT, WOULD BE MUCH SIMPLER ORGANIZATION INCLUDING PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 15-20 NATIONS. MEMBERS COULD JOINTLY OWN AND OPERATE EARTH STATIONS AND IF INDIVIDUAL SHARES OF SOME WERE TOO SMALL TO QUALIFY FOR SEAT ON COUNCIL

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NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10

NSAE-00 CG-00 COA-02 DRC-01 CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-03

OC-06 SCI-06 NSF-04 OIC-04 PM-07 NASA-04 /152 W
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P R 071138Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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OF NEW BODY, THEY MIGHT JOIN WITH OTHER SMALL SHARE-
HOLDERS SO THAT COMBINED SHARES WOULD QUALIFY. HE SAID
SIGNATORIES WOULD HAVE TO BE GOVERNMENTS BUT EACH
GOVERNMENT COULD DEVOLVE PARTICIPATION TO ANYONE IT
CHOSE. ASKED WHO WOULD OWN SPACE SEGMENT UNDER
ARRANGEMENT UK HAD IN MIND, MEYER SAID MEMBERS WOULD
BUY AND HOLD SHARES BASED ON ESTIMATED TRAFFIC BUT,
UNLIKE SOVIET PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD HAVE MANAGEMENT OF
SYSTEM AS INTEGRAL PART OF NEW ORGANIZATION, UK ACCEPT-
ED NEED TO HAVE THIS FUNCTION CONTRACTED OUT TO
ORGANIZATION SUCH AS,HE SAID, INTELSAT OR COMSAT.

4. QUESTIONED AS TO WHY UK DREW SUCH A SHARP DIS-
TINCTION BETWEEN ACCEPTABILITY OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL
CORPORATE BODY AND OPPOSITION TO AN INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNING COUNCIL, MEYER SEEMED
RATHER VAGUE. HE LIKEWISE HEDGED THE AS TO WHY UK
BELIEVED IT NECESSARY THAT MEMBERS MUST OWN SPACE
SEGMENT RATHER THAN LEASE SERVICE FROM INTELSAT.
EMBOFF GAINED IMPRESSION THAT UK UNDER PRESSURE FROM
UK AEROSPACE INDUSTRY TO FORM SYSTEM IN SUCH A WAY
AS TO GIVE ITS INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLY HARD-
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WARE FOR SYSTEM. AT ONE POINT, IN EXPLAINING WHY
ALTERNATIVE C (PARA 2 ABOVE) UNACCEPTABLE, MEYER SAID
MANAGER OF SYSTEM UNDER PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT WOULD
BE ABLE TO DRAW UP SPECIFICATIONS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO
DIRECT SALES OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPANIES FROM SAME
COUNTRY AS MANAGER. EMBOFF OBSERVED HALF-JOKINGLY
THAT GIVEN KEEN COMPETITION AMONG US AEROSPACE
COMPANIES, WE MIGHT BE CONCERNED THAT IF ONE OF THEM
GIVEN MANAGEMENT OF SYSTEM IT MIGHT DRAW UP
SPECIFICATIONS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO DIRECT SALES AWAY
FROM ITS US COMPETITORS.

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5. MEYER SAID THAT UK BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY, BETWEEN NOW AND 1975 MARSAT CONFERENCE, TO ESTABLISH ON AD HOC BASIS A SORT OF RUDIMENTARY SECRETARIAT THAT COULD BE WORKING ON SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS IN ADVANCE. HE SAID UK WOULD PROBABLY RAISE THIS POSSIBILITY AT PANEL OF EXPERTS MEETING IN PARIS NEXT WEEK.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SATELLITES, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, MARITIME MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON10253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730949/aaaabjvy.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: COLWELL.FRANK TELECON
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jul-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMCO - PANEL OF EXPERTS MEETING ON MARITIME SATELLITES
TAGS: ETEL, IMCO, (ILLUECA, JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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